

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Original claims 1-4 and new claims 5-10 remain in this application for examination.

Applicant expresses his sincere appreciation for the allowance of claims 1-4 once "rod" has been substituted for the term "rod-like."

Applicant has been unable to locate copies of references JP 5524281 and JP 556920. If Applicant is able to locate these references, they will be supplied to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. With respect to JP 07-229345 mentioned in Applicant's specification, Applicant has attached a copy of this document hereto in an Information Disclosure Statement.

Figure 6A and 6B have been amended to include the legend "prior art."

Applicant has amended the specification to comply with the suggestions made by the Examiner.

Claims 1-4 have been objected to and rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 because of the use of the term "rod-like." Applicant has amended these claims to substitute the term "rod" for "rod-like" in all instances.

Applicant has added new claims 5-10 which are directed to the concept of a striker system wherein each of these claims includes a positive recitation of both a striker and a keeper, which is held by the striker. The keeper is configured as a hook in each of the claims 5-10. Claims 5-10 correspond to amended claims presented to the UK Patent Office.

In that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action of June 5, 2007, this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

If the Examiner for any reason feels a personal conference with Applicants' attorneys might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned locally.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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